

# GOSSIP FROM STATE HOUSE

There is a prospect that Nebraska may get one of the federal labor bureaus.

Officials of the medical corps deny that a typhoid epidemic is threatened among the Nebraska troops on the border.

Fire Commissioner Ridgell has warned dealers and others that kerosene must not be kept in gasoline or red cans, and that infractions of this rule will meet with punishment.

The two Nebraska regiments on the border have been brigaded with the North Dakota regiments, and Colonel Blockson of the Third U. S. cavalry has been selected as acting commander.

Ten national guard armories in Nebraska have been surrendered to the owners, and payment of rentals for their use has been stopped as a result of the calling of the state troops into federal service.

Tarantula fights are fast supplanting the rather tame "cock baiting" prevalent in the Latin-American countries, among the boys on the border, and the pastime is said to be very exciting.

Sixteen members of the Nebraska regiments now at Camp Llano have been detailed to recruit the regiments to war strength, and will return to the state in a short time to begin the work assigned them.

There were issued from Secretary of State Pool's office during the past month 5,841 automobile numbers and 250 motorcycle numbers. This showed a total registration of 58,890 automobile numbers and 3,569 motorcycle numbers from January 1 to August 1.

There are seven chaplains with the border troops. Three are Episcopal, three are Methodists and one Congregationalist. They co-operate in the Sunday evening service which follows a band concert. The Y. M. C. A. has erected three buildings for the men's use.

"All bosh," writes Hugh Wilson, a Lincoln boy, sergeant of company A, Fifth regiment Nebraska infantry, in camp at Llano Grande, Tex., about the reports coming north of poor food, little water, scarcity of beds and clothing, and of boiling hot weather, as the general conditions of things at camp.

Col. Herbert Paul of the Fifth infantry, now on the border, had a long distance telephone talk with Governor Morehead, regarding conditions at the camp, during which he assured the governor that food, equipment and sanitation were all of the very best, and need occasion no worry to the "folks at home."

Receipts of the oil inspection division of the pure food department for the month of July were \$11,700, according to Food Commissioner C. H. Harman. This is \$300 more than the receipts in June, the previous month, which exceeded all past records in the history of the department in volume of fees.

A musical program that will be representative of Nebraska in talent is scheduled for the Nebraska state fair according to Secretary W. R. Mellor. There will be six bands of the state, the Nebraska State band of Lincoln, George Green's band of Omaha and the city bands of Alton, Scottsbluff, Superior and Verdon in addition to the Kilties, a Canadian musical organization.

First Lieutenant R. R. Heald, of Osceola, who is adjutant of the third battalion, Fourth infantry, has qualified for service on the border and has left for Llano Grande, Tex., according to the announcement at the office of Adjutant General Phil Hall. He had been physically disqualified on account of poor teeth, which he has now had taken care of.

State Food Commissioner C. E. Harman has ruled that gasoline that tests less than 54 degrees, specific gravity, will be deemed to be adulterated and will be rejected by his inspectors for either power or illuminating purposes.

Crop experts are agreed that barring the most unusual conditions there will be some corn in Nebraska. Some say it may even be a big crop. Owners place damage to early corn at more than 50 per cent with some damage to later corn.

Though camp life on the Texas border reduced his own weight thirty pounds Bishop George Allen Beecher who is now at Hastings, declared health conditions are as good as Uncle Sam can make them while every precaution is taken to keep the morals of Nebraska men at a high standard. No saloons or houses of prostitution are allowed within three miles of the camp, said the bishop. As the result of turning all refuse the camp is infested with few flies. During four weeks' stay on the border the bishop did not see one drunken man.

Satisfied with food and health conditions, but impatient over monotonous guard service and inactivity, Nebraska national guards are counting the days and longing for the time when they may return north, according to Burgess Creeth, former Hastings boy who was returned home from a three weeks' stay on the border. Creeth was enlisted with Arizona troops but was discharged when it was learned he was not twenty-one years old.

# NATION'S NATURAL FERTILIZER WEALTH WASTED

by Robert H. Moulton

Fertilizers are going to be higher than they have ever been. A famine impends. Yet the American farmer wasted more than four hundred million dollars' worth of manure, the best fertilizer, last year.



**F**ERTILIZERS are going to be higher than they have ever been before, owing to the war. So acute has the potash situation become that Uncle Sam, among all his other diplomatic troubles, has been dickering with the allies and with Germany to let a little miserable shipment of 10 tons of potash fertilizer come through the blockade for the use of the department of agriculture's farm experiment work. Yet with such a fertilizer famine staring the American farmer in the face, he has deliberately wasted during the last year between four hundred million and four hundred and fifty million dollars' worth of manure, the best of all fertilizers. And this, according to authorities on agriculture and fertilizer, is a regular yearly occurrence. It is not theoretical; it is actual loss, and the strangest part of the story is that the great bulk, if not all, of this waste, could be saved just as easily as not. In fact, most of it would be saved if American farmers were, for instance, Dutch or German farmers. It would be saved by the farmers of any of the old countries, where every pound of soil fertility is conserved as automatically and as naturally as though it were minted money. In Germany the size of the manure pile has long been an index to the wealth of the farmer.

What the value would be of the increased crops that would result from this American plant food, now wasted, can hardly be estimated, but the increased yields of corn, wheat, potatoes, and all farm crops would amount to something enormous. On the basis of using this needlessly wasted strength in manure on the corn crop alone it is estimated that the yield would be increased at least a billion and a half bushels, besides permanently improving the condition of the soil to a tremendous degree. In fact, a good many cornfields of the present day would be so surprised at receiving their quota of this wasted soil fertility that they would not recognize themselves. And yet the Dutch or the German way of handling manure, efficient as it is, is not the best. Americans have discovered the way to prevent all waste in manure and it involves no more labor or expense on the part of the farmer than his present methods through which he loses annually nearly half a billion dollars.

The average successful farmer or gardener will say that this statement doesn't apply to him; that he knows the value of good manure and uses every bit of it that he can get. But is he certain that he makes the best use of all his manure? When he hauls a ton of manure on to the field, is its fertilizing content all that it should be and is he sure that from 10 to 50 per cent of its crop-producing strength has not been dissipated through leaching, fire-fanging, or lack of provision to absorb or conserve the animal urine?

Take as an instance the case of urine alone: A cow will produce 45 to 50 pounds of solid manure a day, but she will also make from 20 to 30 pounds of urine and fully one-half of the nitrogen in her

ration goes into that urine. So it is most important to conserve the urine, for nitrogen is the most expensive element of manure or fertilizer. The other two important plant foods are potash and phosphorus.

Even though manure is highly regarded by all good farmers, nevertheless there is probably no product of equal value which is so miserably neglected and regarding which such real ignorance prevails. The first great source of loss is through the incomplete absorption of the urine, and it is not infrequent to see no attempt being made to save this portion of the manure in spite of the fact that it is richer in both nitrogen and potash than is the dung, and in spite of the fact that these fertilizers are more available for the plant in the urine than in the dung.

The second greatest source of waste of manure is the loss incurred by leaching. If a good-sized manure pile is stacked up against the side of the stable where the water from the eaves can drip on it, or if it is piled on a slope or other exposed place, every heavy rain washes away crisp bank notes in the form of nitrogen and potash. These leached chemicals are the most valuable portions of the pile, the most available for plant feeding.

The third common source of loss is that incurred by heating and fermenting. When manure is put in piles it soon heats and throws off more or less gas and vapor. The fermentation which produces these gases is caused by the action of bacteria, or minute organisms. The bacteria which produce the most rapid fermentation in manure, in order to work their best, need plenty of air, or, more strictly, oxygen. Therefore, fermentation will be most rapid in loosely piled manure. Heat and some moisture are necessary for fermentation, but, if the manure is wet and heavy, fermentation is checked because the temperature is lowered and much of the oxygen excluded from the pile. The strong odor of ammonia, so common around a stable, is a simple evidence of the fermentation and the loss of nitrogen which is going on.

Fresh manure loses in the process of decay from 40 to 70 per cent of its original weight. An 80-ton heap of cow manure left exposed for one year lost 66 per cent of its dry substance. Some tests conducted by the United States department of agriculture showed that two tons of horse manure exposed in a pile for five months lost 57 per cent of its gross weight, 60 per cent of its nitrogen, 47 per cent of its phosphoric acid and 78 per cent of its potash, or an average loss of three-fifths.

Five tons of cow manure exposed for the same length of time in a compact pile lost, through leaching and dissipation of gases, 49 per cent in gross weight, 41 per cent of its nitrogen, 19 per cent of its phosphoric acid and 8 per cent of its potash. Here was a terrific waste, veritably, yet not greater than is to be found in most common farm practice. What would any business man or any farmer think of a city real estate investment or a land investment which depreciated in value in this wise? And what if he discovered that he could have prevented it at almost no cost or extra effort to himself?



ALL MANURE USED FOR FERTILIZER HERE



The farm scientists and the theorists can preach all they want to about the economy of the farmer building fine, big sheds to keep the rain off the manure or other such plans, but it goes without saying that the average farmer isn't going to see it that way. But he doesn't have to! The remedy for such losses is simple in the extreme. In fact, exactly the right way of handling manure so as to save all this loss is about the cheapest, cleanest and altogether the easiest way to handle manure.

The first step to prevent the loss of the fertilizing elements in manure is to provide plenty of bedding or litter in the stable to absorb and save all the liquid. The losses due to fermentation can be greatly checked by mixing horse manure with cow manure and making the temporary piles compact to as to exclude the air, and by thoroughly wetting the manure, which will assist in excluding the air and also reduce the temperature.

The ideal way on the average farm is to follow the plan, all through the year, of hauling manure directly from the stable and spreading it at once. There is a generally prevailing notion among farmers that if manure is hauled and spread in mid-summer, the sun will scorch it to a cinder and burn all the good out of it. The government agricultural station in Maryland, just outside of Washington, decided to determine this matter accurately, and its analytical experiments have exploded two very common beliefs, the summer-burning theory being one of them. The other common belief which has been blown to atoms is that it is better to plow manure under in the fall than to leave it exposed on the land's surface during the winter and then plow it under in the spring.

In the first instance manure spread in "burning" July and allowed to stand until the following spring gave better results in carefully checked experiments than that spread in the following spring just before plowing. In the second series of experiments, better yields were secured after allowing the manure to lie on top of the land all winter and plowing it under in the spring than were obtained from plowing it under in the fall.

## LANSING, PRESIDENT FOR JUST ONE DAY

The next president of the United States will be Robert Lansing of New York, the present secretary of state.

Mr. Lansing's term of office does not depend upon the action of any political convention; it is likewise irrespective of any primary or direct election. In point of fact, it dates back to January 10, 1898, when congress passed an act providing that, in the event of the death, removal, resignation or inability of both the president and the vice president of the United States, the secretary of state shall act as president.

March 4, 1917, will fall upon a Sunday, and it is contrary to all precedent—although not in opposition to any law—to hold an inauguration on Sunday. Therefore the incoming chief executive will take the oath of office and commence his term shortly after noon on March 5. President Wilson's term commenced at noon on March 4, 1913; therefore, according to the Constitution, which defines the term of a president as "four years," his tenure of office will be over at noon on March 4, and, even if he is elected to succeed himself, he cannot take the oath of office until noon on the following day. Vice President Marshall, of course, is under the same disability as the president. Therefore the secretary of state, Mr. Lansing, will be president of the United States for the 24 hours and some minutes elapsing between the noon on Sunday, March 4, and the time that the new president takes the oath of office on the following day.

This brief term of office is not a mere formality. It is an actual occupation of the power of president, with all his authorities and prerogatives. Mr. Lansing—"President Lansing," for the day—will be empowered to occupy the White House, to issue pardons, to attend to all the other business of which the chief executive has control, and to ride to the capitol, should he desire, as the outgoing president on inauguration day.

Moreover, this is the first time in the history of the nation that a secretary of state has had this honor bestowed upon him and only the second time in the 140 years of the existence of the United States that the office has been held by anyone other than the president and vice president.

## THE MARK OF THE DEATH'S HEAD.

From the day of the medieval archer, who notched his crossbow, to the day of the Western bad man, who notched his gun, men have always sought to preserve some mark of military prowess, some tally of their victims. This war has not changed human nature. The modern military aviator, the only soldier who still fights single-handed, does not notch his gun; but he paints a death's head on the wing of his plane to show that he has vanquished his foe in open combat.

# TREATY WITH DANES

DENMARK TO CONVEY HER WEST INDIES TO UNITED STATES.

## WILL MAINTAIN CONCESSIONS

America to Relinquish All Objections to Scandinavian Domination of Greenland—Can Extend Political and Economic Interests.

Washington, Aug. 12.—President Wilson has sent to the senate for ratification the treaty with Denmark for the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. Although the treaty has been carefully guarded from publicity, the International News Service correspondent is now able to furnish the full list of its exact terms.

The convention is preceded by a declaration by Secretary Lansing that the government of the United States "will not object to the Danish government extending their political and economic interests to the whole of Greenland."

This treaty consists of 12 articles, as compared with seven in that of 1902. In many respects they are similar. The most important changes are found in Article III, in which are enumerated the grants and concessions the United States will maintain in accordance with the terms of the grants when made by the Danish government.

Article I describes the territory ceded as the "Islands of Saint Thomas, Saint John and Saint Croix, together with the adjacent islands and rocks," and including "the right of property in all public, government or crown lands, public buildings, wharves, ports, harbors, fortifications, barracks, public funds, rights, franchises and privileges and all other public property of every kind or description now belonging to Denmark, together with all the appurtenances thereto." It includes also all public archives.

In Article II Denmark guarantees that the cession is free and unincumbered "by any reservations, privileges, franchises, grants or possessions held by any governments, corporations, syndicates or individuals except as herein mentioned."

Article III contains many special agreements. The arms and military stores of the Danish government are to remain its property, to be removed as soon as practicable.

The United States agrees to maintain certain grants, concessions and licenses given by the Danish government in accordance with their terms.

Article IV provides for the appointment of proper agents for the purpose of formally delivering and accepting the territory ceded.

Those who remain in the islands may preserve their Danish citizenship by making within one year from the date of exchange of ratifications a declaration of their decision to preserve such citizenship. In default of such declaration they shall be held to have renounced it and accepted citizenship in the United States.

## DEMAND EMBARGO ON WHEAT

Master Bakers of U. S. Issue Appeal as Grain and Flour Advance.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 12.—The National Association of Master Bakers at its session on Thursday adopted a resolution asking that an embargo be placed on the present wheat crop to prevent any further advance in the market price of wheat. The resolution was sent to President Wilson and to congress.

The association elected F. S. McDonald of Memphis, president; Paul J. Stern of Milwaukee, vice president; Fred S. Freund, St. Louis, treasurer, and E. J. Arnold of Providence, R. I., and E. B. Strain, Battle Creek, Mich., members of the executive committee. The next convention will be in Chicago.

## STANISLAU MENACED BY RUSS

Capture of Galician City Believed to Be Near—Railway Station of Krynin Taken by Czar.

Petrograd, Aug. 12.—The capture of the Russians of the railway station of Krynin, on the Stanislaw-Nadvorna railroad, was announced officially.

The Austro-Hungarian base of Stanislaw in Galicia is under heavy artillery fire by the Russians, and its capture is expected momentarily. At last reports the Russians were only five miles from the city and were pressing onward.

The army of General Lechitzky, which has been the most successful, in the group commanded by General Brusiloff, is driving northward against Stanislaw, overrunning all opposition of the Teutons.

## New Giant Airships.

Washington, Aug. 12.—The giant Zeppelin transatlantic air liners promised by Germany to help her merchant submarines defeat the purposes of the British blockade are nearing completion near Lake Constance.

## Gives U. S. Fryatt Protest.

London, Aug. 12.—The foreign office requested Ambassador Gerard to convey to the German government the British government's desire to enter a most formal protest against the execution of Captain Fryatt.